

NOTES ON SOME SIPHONAPTERA OF FULTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

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During April and May, 1953, 22 small mammals were collected near the village of Gloversville, Fulton County, New York. From these mammals, 77 fleas were collected, representing seven species of two families. Nomenclature follows Holland, Siphonaptera of Canada, 1949.

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Notes on species collected:

Family Hystriehopsyllidæ

Tamioiphila grandis (Rothschild): Twelve females of this species were taken from two chipmunks, *Tamias striatus lysteri*.

Ctenophthalmus pseudagyrtis Baker: This non-specific parasite is represented by 11 specimens. Five females and two males were taken from 4 short-tailed shrews, *Blarina brevicauda*, while four females were taken from two chipmunks.

Corrodopsylla c. curvata (Rothschild): Four females of this highly host-specific flea were taken from three short-tailed shrews.

Orchopeas leucopus (Baker): Nine females and seven males of this common flea were taken from nine deer mice, *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis*.

Family Ceratophyllidæ

Ceratophyllus gallinæ (Schrank): One female of this species, normally a parasite of domestic fowl, was taken from a Norway rat, *Rattus norvegicus*. A nearby turkey farm was its probable source.

Megabothris acerbus (Jordan) : This chipmunk flea was taken from every chipmunk collected. Eighteen females and thirteen males were collected from three chipmunks.

Peromyscopsylla h. hesperomys (Baker) : Two males of this species were taken from a deer mouse.

DISCUSSION

The area trapped, in and around an extensive dump, was heavily infested with fleas. The average of somewhat more than three fleas per animal, with almost every one taken infested to some degree, is unusual. One chipmunk was host to 27 fleas of three species.

The tremendous preponderance of females, 53 to 24 or about two to one, seems too great to be the result of chance. This is especially true of *Tamioiphila grandis*, of which twelve females and no males were taken. Some difference in behavior of the sexes, at least during this season, may be indicated.